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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Comment on Microsoft Settlement

According to Microsoft, their number one competitor is Linux and other open source software. Most people agree. The proposed DOJ settlement is supposed to make API's and protocols available to other developers. However, the current proposed settlement has a loophole that would deny to Linux access to Microsoft proprietary protocols and file formats. An agreement which excludes Microsoft's main competitor is almost completely empty.

File formats and network protocols should require approval of an independent review committee such as the IETF and be made available to open source developers.

Open protocols and data interchange formats are an essential part of the Department of Defense's Joint Technical Architecture (JTA - see <http://www-jta.itsi.disa.mil/>). Proprietary protocols are at odds with the both the JTA and the need to have competitive sources available for military communications equipment.

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